

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 01231 151838Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 /059 W

----- 039989

R 151821Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5886

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 01231

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: ILLNESS OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF)

SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES MARCHAIS

SUMMARY. AFTER SUFFERING WHAT HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS A HEART ATTACK OR A STROKE, GEORGES MARCHAIS HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR AN INDETERMINATE PERIOD. MOST LIKELY IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF HIS ILLNESS WILL BE TO AID THE "HARD-LINERS" IN THEIR ATTEMPTS AT DAY-TO-DAY DIRECTION OF THE PCF'S AFFAIRS AND FURTHER EXACERBATE THE PCF/SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) QUARREL. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER SUFFERING WHAT HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS A HEART ATTACK WITH PERMANENT AFTER EFFECTS TO THE HEART MUSCLES AND AS A STROKE, GEORGES MARCHAIS WAS HOSPITALIZED IN THE EARLY EVENING OF JANUARY 14. THE PCF REACTED TO THE NEWS BY FIRST SAYING THAT IT WOULD IMMEDIATELY APPOINT AN INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL TO LEAD THE PARTY IN TANDEM WITH ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THEN, SECOND, ON JANUARY 15, BY SAYING THAT THERE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 01231 151838Z

WOULD BE NO REORGANIZATION PENDING FURTHER MEDICAL INFORMATION. FOLLOWING THE LATTER STATEMENT, THE PCF

POLITBURO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD "COLLECTIVELY ASSURE THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY" DURING MARCHAIS' ILLNESS.

2. THE PARTY IS AT SOME PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT "THE SUCCESSION IS NOT OPEN", NO DOUBT RECALLING THAT THE SAME PROBLEM EXISTED IN 1969 WHEN THEN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDECK ROCHECET SUDDENLY BECAME ILL. THE PARTY WAITED SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE DESIGNATING A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (MARCHAIS) AND ALMOST THREE YEARS BEFORE CONFIRMING MARCHAIS IN HIS POST AS SECRETARY GENERAL. THE PROBLEM OF SUCCESSION IS THUS NOT NEW TO THE PCF AND THE JANUARY 15 ANNOUNCEMENT IS A CLEAR SIGNAL TO PARTY MILITANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ALIKE THAT THERE WILL BE NO DEGRADATION IN THE CONSTANCY OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP.

3. THE INITIAL REACTION TO MARCHAIS' ILLNESS SUGGESTS THAT PARIS POLITICAL CIRCLES ASSUMED THAT L'HUMANITE EDITOR AND SOMETIME STALINIST ROLAND LEROY WOULD STEP INTO MARCHAIS' SHOES BY BECOMING SECRETARY GENERAL AD INTERIM. INITIAL PS REACTION WAS FEARFUL WITH SEVERAL PS LEADERS COMMENTING THAT THE QUARREL BETWEEN THE TWO PARTNERS OF THE UNITED LEFT COULD BE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY. WITH THE PARTY NOW PROMISING NO DRASIC REORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES, PS FEARS SEEM TO BE MUTED ALTHOUGH THERE IS UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE TO SPEAK BEFORE KNOWING FURTHER DETAILS OF MARCHAIS' PROGNOSIS.

4. WE HOPE TO HAVE SOME MEDICAL INFORMATION IN A DAY OR TWO, WHEN WE CAN BETTER JUDGE THE SERIOUSNESS OF MARCHAIS' ILLNESS.

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS01231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750016-0293
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750150/aaaabrqy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILLNESS OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES MARCHAIS
TAGS: PINT, FR, (MARCHAIS, GEORGES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006